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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/770,119	02/02/2004	Nagesh Kadaba	018360/269884	9349

826 7590 06/06/2005

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EXAMINER	
LE, TOAN M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2863	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/770,119	KADABA, NAGESH	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Toan M. Le	2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-89* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-89* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02 February 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/14/05; 12/28/04*; 5/20/04
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5, 8-44, and 47-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wood (US Pub. No. 2003/0146836 A1).

Referring to claim 1, Wood discloses a system comprising:

an environmental sensor associated with a product in a container (figure 5);

at least one scanner for scanning the sensor at one or more locations to read product environment data from the sensor (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7); and

a computer connected to communicate with the at least one scanner, the computer generating a transporting instruction for transporting the container and product based on the scanned product environment data (page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7).

As to claim 2, Wood discloses a system, wherein the transporting instruction is generated based on determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has transcended a limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in figure 6).

Referring to claim 3, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor stores shipping address data of a receiver to which the container and product are to be sent, the transporting performed by a carrier so as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting performed differently to other than the receiver if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0089]; page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60).

As to claim 4, Wood discloses a system, wherein the at least one scanner is further used for scanning identification data from at least one of the container and product (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0080]).

Referring to claim 5, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor generates time data and stores product environment data in association with the time data to indicate the time of sensing the environment condition (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 8, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensor tag, and the scanner transmits and receives radio frequency signals from the tag in the performance of scanning the sensor (page 1, paragraphs [0007] and [0009]; page 2, paragraphs [0014] and [0016]; page 4, paragraph [0078]).

Referring to claim 9, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor is placed inside the container (page 4, paragraph [0075]; figure 5).

As to claim 10, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor is affixed to an outer surface of the container (page 4, paragraph [0074]; figure 4).

Referring to claim 11, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor is positioned on the product inside of the container (page 4, paragraph [0073]; figure 3).

As to claim 12, Wood discloses a system, wherein the environmental condition sensed by the sensor to generate the product environment data includes at least one of temperature, pressure, vacuum, vibration, shock, humidity, moisture, light, air, and a chemical (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 13, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a temperature sensor, and the product environment data generated by the sensor comprises at least one measurement of a temperature level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 14, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor, and the product environment data generated by the pressure sensor comprises at least one measurement of a pressure level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 15, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a vacuum sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vacuum sensor comprises at least one measurement of a vacuum level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 16, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a light sensor, and the product environment data generated by the light sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of light to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 17, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a chemical sensor, and the product environment data generated by the chemical sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of a chemical to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 18, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises an air sensor, and the product environment data generated by the air sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of air to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 19, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a vibration sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vibration sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of vibration to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 20, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a shock sensor, and the product environment data generated by the shock sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of shock to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 21, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a humidity sensor, and the product environment data generated by the humidity sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of humidity to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 22, Wood discloses a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a moisture sensor, and the product environment data generated by the moisture sensor

comprises at least one measurement of an amount of moisture to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 23, Wood discloses a computer system comprising: a server capable of communicating with a plurality of remote computers via a network, said remote computers operable to transmit at least one of product environment data, tracking data and identification data associated with at least one of a container and product, to the server via the network (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18); and

a database accessible by the server for storing product environment and tracking data in association with identification data (page 6, paragraphs [0096] and [0097]; figure 7).

As to claim 24, Wood discloses the computer system, wherein the tracking data comprises time and location data identifying when and where at least one scanning operation of a contained product took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 25, Wood discloses the computer system, wherein the identification data comprises a tracking identifier uniquely identifying at least one of the container and product (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 26, Wood discloses an apparatus comprising:

a database storage unit storing:

identification data associated with at least one of a container and product (page 1, paragraph [0008]);

tracking data associated with the identification data (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]); and

product environment data associated with the identification data and the tracking data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18; figure 7).

Referring to claim 27, Wood discloses the apparatus, wherein the tracking data comprises time and location data identifying when and where, respectively, at, least one corresponding scanning of the contained product took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 28, Wood discloses the apparatus, wherein the identification data comprises a tracking identifier uniquely identifying at least one of the container and product (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 29, Wood discloses a method comprising:

scanning an environmental sensor physically associated with a product in a container at one or more locations to read product environment data from the sensor (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7) and

transporting the container and product based on the product environment data (page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]).

As to claim 30, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has transcended a limit based on the product environment data,

the transporting step being performed based on the determining step (Blocks 577, and 575 in figure 6; page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]).

Referring to claim 31, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container has a shipping label having shipping address data indicating a shipping address of a receiver to which the

container and product are to be sent, the transporting performed so as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting performed differently if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0078]; page 5, paragraph [0089]; page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60).

As to claim 32, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor stores shipping address data of a receiver to which the container and product are to be sent, the transporting performed so as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting performed differently if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0078]; page 5, paragraph [0089]; page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60).

Referring to claim 33, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container and product are routed to an alternate destination if the determining establishes that the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 5, paragraph [0089]).

As to claim 34, Wood discloses a method, wherein the alternate destination includes a disposal site (page 5, paragraph [0089]; figure 7).

Referring to claim 35, Wood discloses a method, wherein the alternate destination includes a different receiver than the receiver to whom the container and product were originally to be sent (page 5, paragraph [0089]; figure 7).

As to claim 36, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

transmitting the product environment data via a network from a scanner performing the scanning, to a computer system for storage therein (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 37, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the steps of:

scanning identification data from at least one of the container and product (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7);

transmitting the identification data to the computer system (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18);

receiving identification data and product environment data from the scanner at the computer system via the network (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18); and

storing the product environment data in association with the identification data at the computer system (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

As to claim 38, Wood discloses a method, wherein the determining is performed by the computer system based on the received product environment data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 39, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the step of generating a transporting instruction at the computer system for performance of the transporting based on the product environment data (page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]).

As to claim 40, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the transporting instruction from the computer system to at least one point within a carrier's logistics network for performance of the transporting step (figure 7).

Referring to claim 41, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the steps of:

generating tracking data including at least one of the time and location of the product during the performance of the scanning (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083];

transmitting the tracking data to the computer system;

receiving tracking data at the computer system; and

recording the tracking data in association with the identification data and product environment data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18; figure 7).

As to claim 42, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

receiving at the computer system via the network a request from a user of a computing device to access product environment data for a package, the request including identification data associated with at least one of the container and product (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

retrieving the product environment data based on the identification data (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

transmitting the product environment data from the computer system to the computing device via the network (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7; page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 43, Wood discloses a method, wherein the determining is performed by the sensor to produce determination data scanned in the scanning step (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in figure 6).

As to claim 44, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor generates time data and stores product environment data in association with the time data to indicate the time of sensing the environmental condition (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 47, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container is a package (page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figures 4-5).

As to claim 48, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container is a shipping container (page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figures 4-5).

Referring to claim 49, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensor tag, and the scanner transmits and receives radio frequency signals from the tag in the performance of the scanning step (page 1, paragraphs [0007] and [0009]; page 2, paragraphs [0014] and [0016]; page 4, paragraphs [0078]).

As to claim 50, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor is placed inside the container (page 4, paragraph [0075]; figure 5).

Referring to claim 51, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor is affixed to an outer surface of the container (page 4, paragraph [0074]; figure 4).

As to claim 52, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor is positioned on the product inside of the container (page 4, paragraph [0073]; figure 3).

Referring to claim 53, Wood discloses a method, wherein the environmental condition sensed by the sensor to generate the product environment data includes at least one of temperature, pressure, vacuum, vibration, shock, humidity, moisture, light, air, and a chemical (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 54, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a temperature sensor, and the product environment data generated by the temperature sensor comprises at least one measurement of a temperature level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 55, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor, and the product environment data generated by the pressure sensor comprises at least one measurement of a pressure level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 56, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a vacuum sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vacuum sensor comprises at least one measurement of a vacuum level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 57, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a light sensor, and the product environment data generated by the light sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of light to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 58, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a chemical sensor, and the product environment data generated by the chemical sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of a known chemical to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 59, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises an air sensor, and the product environment data generated by the air sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of air to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 60, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a vibration sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vibration sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of vibration to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 61, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a shock sensor, and the product environment data generated by the shock sensor comprises at least one

measurement of an amount of shock to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 62, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a humidity sensor, and the product environment data generated by the humidity sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of humidity to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 63, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a moisture sensor, and the product environment data generated by the moisture sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of moisture to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 64, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has transcended a first limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in figure 6),

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has transcended a second limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 581, 582, and 583 in figure 6),

the transporting step being performed based on the determining steps (Block 584 in figure 6).

Referring to claim 65, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container and product are transported using a faster level of service than is currently being used to transport the container

and product, if the determining establishes that the environmental condition has transcended the first limit, but not the second limit (page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]; figure 7).

As to claim 66, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container and product are routed to an alternate destination if the determining establishes that the environmental condition has transcended both the first limit and the second limit (page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]; figure 7).

Referring to claim 67, Wood discloses a method comprising:

receiving identification data associated with at least one of a container and product at a computer system via a network from a remote scanner (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

receiving product environment data at the computer system via the network from the remote scanner, said product environment data obtained by scanning an environmental sensor associated with the contained product (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

storing the product environment data in association with the identification data in the computer system (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

receiving tracking data associated with the contained product at the computer system via the network from the remote scanner (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

storing the tracking data in association with the identification data and the product environment data in the computer system (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7).

As to claim 68, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking data comprises time and location data identifying, respectively, when and where the scanning took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 69, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking identifier is identified in a printed medium attached to the package (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

As to claim 70, Wood discloses a method, wherein the printed medium comprises a shipping label (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

Referring to claim 71, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking identifier is identified by a shipping label attached to a container enclosing the product (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

As to claim 72, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking identifier is stored in the sensor and read by a scanner to identify the contained product (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

Referring to claim 73, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to access product environment data from a remote computing device via the network (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

transmitting the product environment data in association with the tracking data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

As to claim 74, Wood discloses a method, wherein the computing system receives user identification data in the request received from the remote computing device, the method further comprising the step of:

determining whether the user is authorized to access the product environment data based on the user identification data (page 6, paragraph [0096]; page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

selectively transmitting the product environment data to the user, if the determining establishes that the user is authorized to access the product environment data (page 6, paragraph [0096]; page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 75, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium storing a computer program that can be executed by a computer to receive product environment data, said product environment data obtained by scanning an environmental sensor associated with a product in a container, and to generate a transporting instruction for transporting the container and product based on the product environment data (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7).

As to claim 76, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the transporting instruction is generated based on determining whether the environmental condition of the product in the container has transcended a limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in figure 6).

Referring to claim 77, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the container has a shipping label having shipping address data indicating a shipping address of a receiver to which the container and product are to be sent, the transporting instruction indicating the transporting be performed by a carrier so as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining step has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting instruction indicating the transporting be performed differently if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0089], page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60; figures 6-7).

As to claim 78, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to transmit the transporting instruction to at least one point within a carrier's logistics network for performance of transporting the container and product (figure 7).

Referring to claim 79, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to receive identification data associated with at least one of the container and product, and store the identification data in association with the product environment data (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0080]).

As to claim 80, wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to receive tracking data, and store the tracking data in association with the product environment data (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 81, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the tracking data comprises time and location data identifying, respectively, when and where the scanning was performed (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 82, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the container is a package (page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figure 4-5).

Referring to claim 83, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the container is a shipping container (page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figures 4-5).

As to claim 84, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the sensor comprises a radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensor tag, and a scanner transmits and

receives radio frequency signals from the tag in the performance of the scanning step (page 1, paragraphs [0007] and [0009]; page 2, paragraphs [0014] and [0016]; page 4, paragraph [0078]).

Referring to claim 85, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the environmental condition sensed by the sensor to generate the product environment data includes at least one of temperature, pressure, vacuum, vibration, shock, humidity, moisture, light, air, and a chemical (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 86, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium storing a computer program that can be executed by a computer to: receive product environment data at the computer via a network from a remote scanner, said product environment data obtained by scanning an environmental sensor associated with a contained product; store the product environment data in the computer; receive tracking data associated with the contained product at the computer via the network from the remote scanner; and store the tracking data in association with the product environment data in the computer (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18; figures 6-7) .

Referring to claim 87, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein said tracking data comprises time and location data identifying when and where, respectively, the scanning took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 88, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to receive a request to access the product environment data from a remote computing device via the network, and transmit the product environment data in association with the tracking data (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7 and 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 89, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to: receive user identification data in the request received from the remote computing device; determine whether the user is authorized to access the product environment data based on the user identification data; and selectively transmit the product environment data to the user, if the determining step establishes that the user is authorized to access the product environment data (page 6, paragraph [0096]; page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7 and 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood as applied to claims 1 and 30 above, and further in view of Easley et al. (US Pub. No. 2005/0073406 A1).

Referring to claims 6-7 and 45-46, Wood discloses a system and a method of:

scanning an environmental sensor physically associated with a product in a container at one or more locations to read product environment data from the sensor (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7);

transporting the container and product based on the product environment data (page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]);

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has transcended a limit based on the product environment data;

the transporting step being performed based on the determining step (Blocks 577, and 575 in figure 6; page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]).

Wood does not teach or suggest the sensor comprises a visual indicator comprising at least one light-emitting diode (LED) that illuminates in response to the environment condition to which the product is subjected transcending a limit.

Easley et al. disclose the sensor comprises a visual indicator comprising at least one light-emitting diode (LED) that illuminates in response to the environment condition to which the product is subjected transcending a limit (page 3, paragraph [0048]; page4, paragraph [0062]).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied the sensor as described by Easley et al. reference into the method and system of Wood's reference to monitor the container environment and provide a security alarm to the container visually and/or audibly in detecting breaches in the container integrity.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan M. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2276. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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May 20, 2005

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